Discovery of gigantic plant fossils

3628. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minisiter of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest discoveries by geologists relating to gigantic plant fossils belonging to Jurrassic Era a throwback tc nearly 200 million years ago;

(b) if so, whether the Researchers from MS University, who stumbled on to the Fossilized tree logs at Khadi island in Kutch, are also launching a detailed study about the dug samples near the Harappan civilization site; and

(c) whether Government have necessary infrastructure to preserve and maintain such delicate historical finds so that posterity could also take pride in our enriched heritage?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism is not aware of any such detailed study.

(c) According to the Geological Survey of India they are mandated to preserve and maintain such finds and that they have the capabilities to do so.

Development of **major tourist places**

†3629. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding development of such major tourist places in the country with a view to bring these at par with international level is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal of including Darjeeling in West Bengal in the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.